

MAINE FARMER.

A Family Paper; Devoted to Agriculture, Mechanic Arts, General Intelligence, &c.

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"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

MAINE FARMER.

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Picking Indian Corn when you Plant it.

A correspondent of the New England Farmer

says it is a good plan to put common salt in the hill

of corn when you plant it, and tells a story of two

farmers in New Hampshire, who both intended to

get the premium for the best crop of corn. He

says: "There was no perceptible difference in the

character of their soils, and it appeared from their

statements that they had pursued nearly the same

measures in preparing their grounds and cultivating

their crops. To be brief, one took the highest pre-

mium offered, and the other had a crop so meagre

as not to be worth presenting to the Society. His

crop had suffered from the cut-worm—while the

former, by the application of salt to the hills, had

completely secured his from the destroyer." We

have generally noticed that corn planted on a hard

land suffers by the ravages of the worm much more

often than on land that has been cultivated the

year previous, and the soil is decomposed.

Preparation of Land for Crops.

Next in importance to manuring land liberally, is

to pulverize it thoroughly. Let no haste to despatch

your spring work prevent you giving your land a

thorough plowing, harrowing, and if for grass or

grain, a faithful rolling. Your success with your

crops depends in a material degree on these condi-

tions in the preparatory treatment of the soil.

If your ground intended for crops this spring was

plowed last autumn, it will need less preparation

than if the case was otherwise; still it should be

thoroughly stirred and powdered before putting in

the seed.

Where you do plow, by all means plow deep—

harrow both ways, and let the roller follow. If you

have never pursued these practices heretofore, try

them now, and we predict you will never be dis-

posed to abandon them hereafter. Do not distrust

the utility of these measures without giving them a

trial.

The benefits that result from deep stirring and

pulverization of the soil, and from the use of the

roller, have been comparatively but little appre-

ciated, because but little known from actual ex-

perience. Lumps of soil, or soil and manure, may lie

in the soil from the time of preparing the land

for the crop, till the time of harvesting the product;

whereas if a little pains were taken to pulverize

them, they would contribute to the sustenance of

the crop or by chemical action to the improvement

of the soil.

If you intend to set out an orchard this spring,

you could not do a better thing to ensure its suc-

cess and promote your interest, than to subsoil the

land where the trees are to stand—and we would

strongly recommend the same operation on all other

land intended for crops. The concurrent testimony

which is borne in favor of the subsoil plow by all

who have tested its merits, renders the recommenda-

tion of its use perfectly safe. Experience with it

has fully confirmed the theory advanced in its favor

—that its use is of importance to no other agri-

cultural implement of modern invention.

Many a farmer who proclaims his inability to

afford the expenditure of a dozen or fifteen dollars

for a subsoil plow, spends full this amount annually

for things which are not only of no service to him,

but which are sheer follies. We never knew a man

who had used a subsoil plow, who did not reply in

answer to a question upon the subject, that he

considered the cost of the plow was fully repaid

him by the advantages resulting from the first year's

use of it. [N. E. Farmer.]

Running Beans.—The prettiest way for a man

who cultivates but little land, to raise his own dry

beans for the next winter's use, is—not to plant the

bush beans by themselves, for this will require too

much land, as the product is small—but to raise

white pole beans. The common case-knife beans

are excellent for this purpose.

Strike out a dozen or more circles on the ground,

The Corn Crop.

For a good crop of corn, it is necessary that the

land should be deeply and well worked, and that a

good supply of manure should be intimately mixed

with the soil, as every square inch of well

prepared ground, is filled with roots, and each root

let should find its food. Manuring in the hill is

much less practiced than formerly, yet a small

quantity—one or two pints to a hill—of good fine

compost, made of soil, manure or peat, saturated with

urine, and mixed with hen or pigeon dung

or guano, has a very beneficial effect in giving the

corn an early and vigorous start before it can de-

rive much benefit from the manure applied broadcast.

On land containing sulphate or oxide of iron in

any considerable quantity, the amount of manure

above named, put in the hill, will sometimes double

or triple the crop. When corn planted upon a soil

containing the above deleterious substances, begins

to draw its food from the soil, the leaves assume a

reddish purple color, the main root is frequently

corroded or eaten off, the plants remain stationary

for several weeks, till new roots start out from the

base of the plant; but the corn never recovers, and

a light crop is generally the result.

The writer of this, last year plowed a piece of

good looking soil, but containing much salt of

iron; it was well manured before and after plow-

ing. When the corn was planted, a single handful

of compost, made of fine swamp muck, urine, and

hen dung, was put in the hill; (one person could

draw the manure from a basket, as fast as another

could the corn.) The whole was thus manured with

the exception of sixty hills. The consequence was,

the unmanured hills produced less than half the

amount of corn and fodder than an equal number of

manured hills did.

The reason, I presume was, the manure in the

hill neutralized the corrosive nature of the soil;—

the plants in their early growth found in the fine

manure of the hills, a ready prepared and congenial

food, instead of the deleterious sulphate and

oxide of iron, which the sixty unmanured hills had

to swallow in their early growth.

Better plows and deeper plowing, seem to be

coming into general use, and more of the cold and

inert subsoil is brought to the surface, which is

generally injurious to many crops, till it has had the

benefit of one or two years exposure to atmospheric

influences.

In the hill, a small quantity of manure will be

found very useful, even if the soil does not contain

any of the salts of iron in a hurtful quantity.

[N. E. Farmer.]

CORN PLANTER.

From the Western Farmer and Gardener.

Cultivation of the Quince.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—The Quince is but little cul-

tivated, as a useful fruit, in this country; and it is

indeed, from some unknown cause to me, greatly

neglected wherever it thrives, although the fruit is

always in demand, and generally commands a good

price. There is no fruit tree I am acquainted with,

that requires more, and pays better for pruning than

the Quince; and sure is none I believe, that re-

quires less, or is more neglected. The Pear, the

Apple, the Peach, Cherry, and the many other

cherished, dug ground, pruned and trained by

the amateur, but the Quince is often left "solitary

and alone," by the side of a ditch, with its roots

overgrown with grass or rank growing weeds and

brambles, unpruned and neglected, only when in

fruit, and then the good lady of the house has a

jealous eye for its golden load, and would sooner be

deprived of her best eat of Quince than the crop of

Quince to grace her table, as one of the best pres-

erved and then every one exclaims, "what a fine

Quince is—how very delicious!" Now, sir, I

am always an advocate for the ladies, and have

one present whilst writing, which gives credence to

this assertion, I hope this much neglected tree

From Cobbett's American Gardener.

Garden Vegetables.

BEAN (KIDNEY).—Endless is the variety of sorts,

some dwarfs, some climbers; but the mode of prop-

agating and cultivating is nearly the same in all,

except that the dwarfs require smaller distances

than the climbers, and that the latter are grown with

poles, which the former are not. In this fine coun-

try the seed is so good, the soil and climate so fa-

vorable to the plant, the use of the vegetable so

general, the propagation and cultivation so easy

and so well understood, that little in detail need

be said about them. I prefer sowing the dwarfs in

rows, to sowing them in bunches or clumps. It is a

great object to have them early, and they may be

had much earlier than they usually are with a little

pains. It is useless to sow them while the ground

is cold, for they will not grow till it be warm; but

there are means to be used to get them forwarder

than the natural ground will produce them. If you

have a glazed frame, or a hand-glass or two, use

one or the other in this case; but if not, dig a hole

and put in it, well shaken together, a couple of

wheelbarrows full of good hot dung; and lay some

good rich mould upon it six inches thick. Then

lay on this some of the earliest sort of dwarf-beans.

Put them not more than an inch apart, and cover

them with two inches of fine rich mould. Bend

some rods over the whole, and put the ends of the

rods in the ground; and every evening cover this

soil roof over with a bit of old carpet or mat-

ting. In default of these coverings may do. Do

this when the winter frost is just out of the

ground, or soon after. The beans will be up in a

week's time; and in about a fortnight afterwards

they will be fit to remove. The place for them is

under a wall, a paling, or a hedge, facing the south.

Prepare the ground well, and make it rich. Take a

